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THE WEEK.

MONDAY, 26TH DECEMBER.

THE earliest present the Pope will receive at his Jubilee will no doubt be that sent by the clergy of Paris. It is a tiara of solid gold, ornamented with 11 large sapphires, 20 turquoises, 32 rubies, 529 diamonds, and 252 pearls. The whole is a work of art of the most unique kind, and the same may be said of the case containing it. The latter is of white morocco, ornamented with enamel and gold, and bearing the arms of his Holiness.

THE *Moscow Gazette*, in an article upon the relations between England and Russia, invites England to abandon her blind jealousy of Russia respecting Afghanistan, and says that a thorough understanding upon all questions between the two countries would be highly beneficial to both. It is not Russia, proceeds the journal, but Germany, who is a dangerous competitor to England, both by land and sea. Russia seeks no enlargement of territory which would be detrimental to England. She threatens nothing, and the views attributed to her regarding India are absurd.

SIR CHARLES DILKE, in his examination, in the *Fortnightly*, of the offensive and defensive position of England, and his scientific analysis of European contingencies, shows the enormous advantage which the accession of the English fleet would bring to the Central Powers in case of a European conflict. Its action might protect the northern coasts of Germany, and prevent Denmark being made a *place d'armes* either by Russia or France. What is more important would be its co operation with Italy. In concert with the Italian fleet, it would be able to cover the Austrian Adrian sea-board and liberate an Italian force of 300,000 for action in the North or West. Reckoning some of these ways, the English fleet would be equivalent to a reinforcement of half a million of men. But as regards independent action the writer is clear. He doubts whether England could command the sea during a French invasion, while she could never take the offensive, owing to the irregular distribution of her military forces and their inefficient organisation.

THE Senate of the Bombay University recently met in the Sir Cowasjee Jehanghir Hall to resume the debate on Professor Oxenham's motion to refer the Draft Act to consolidate and amend the law relating to the University of Bombay, to a special committee. The Hon. Budroodin Tyebjee, the Hon. Mr. Latham, and others spoke in support of the motion, as being the only business-like way in which they could treat so important a measure as a bill which would reform their whole constitution. The Hon. P. M. Mehta, Mr. Justice Candy and Mr. Hakim opposed Professor Oxenham's amendment on the ground of its futility and the delay it would necessarily entail. They pointed out that after the report on the Bill came from the select committee the Senate's position in the matter would not in the slightest degree be bettered. Dr. Peterson proposed that the present meeting should be dissolved, and another called a fortnight hence, when members of the Senate would be able to consider the bill and send in their amendments. This proposition was lost by 30 votes against 25. Professor Oxenham's amendment was then carried by a large majority. A committee consisting of Messrs. Birdwood, Telang, Latham, Cooke, Apte, and Dr. Hojel, and the heads of colleges was appointed to consider the bill, and the meeting was adjourned to the 1st of February next.

MR. CAREY, as the result of his two years' travel in Chinese Turkestan, declares that extreme poverty is the chief characteristic of the country. It is a huge desert, fringed by a few small patches of cultivation. "There are," says Mr. Carey, "probably many districts in India in charge of a single collector and magistrate, which are richer and better worth having than the whole of this huge province, extending over not much less than 20 degrees of longitude and 10 degrees of latitude." And since this is the case, he is unable to encourage any hope of opening up a trade with India :—"Sanguine expectations have from time to time been entertained of the development of a large trade with Turkestan ; but, judging from the poverty of the country, the sparseness of the population, and the absence of any manufacturing industries, except on the most petty scale, it appears to me impossible that such anticipations can ever be realised. The volume of trade, either with India or Russia, must, I am disposed to think, always remain insignificant." Everywhere he found the most friendly feelings towards England on the part both of the Mahomedan population and their Chinese rulers. The prestige of the Chinese stands very high and they are, adds Mr. Carey, "looked up to much as Englishmen used to be in India some years ago.' Complete religious toleration is maintained. Crime is repressed, and life and property are as safe as in British India. "China," Mr. Carey declares," is an unaggressive and not unfriendly neighbour, and our good wishes may, therefore, go with her efforts to maintain and consolidate her authority."

TUESDAY 27TH DECEMBER.

THE preliminary meeting of the third National Congress was held, at Madras, this day afternoon, for the formal reception of the delegates and the election of the President. Sir T. Madhava Rao was in the chair.

In welcoming the delegates, he said that he regarded the Congress as the natural result of forces which had been at work in India during British rule. Contact with such a nation was like contact with magnetism. It has had the inevitable effect of the nation operated upon, being assimilated by insensible degrees to the dominant type. They could not wonder at local prejudices getting effaced, and that there should be amongst the people an earnest desire to recognise their original identity of type and undoubted community of interests, and to fraternize and unite together. There was a powerful bond of union in India still which made their hearts vibrate with sympathy and mutual love, and in a common affection for their mother-country. To well balanced minds such a gathering as the Congress must be a fresh proof of British glory and of the triumph of British efforts now that a splendid empire had been constructed, and consolidated. This Congress represents only that very factor which is necessary for the further development of India.

He called upon them now to elect their president, and Mr. W. C. Banerjee proposed the Honorable Budroodeen Tyabjee. In doing so he alluded to the misapprehension existing in the minds of certain Mahomedans as to the scope and object of the Congress. He assured them that representative Government, in its truest and best sense, is only what was desired by the Congress.

The Hon'ble Subramania Iyer, a High Court vakil, and member of the Madras Legislative Council, seconded the nomination. Raja Rampal Singh supported the resolution.

The President was heartily received. He claimed that the gathering was a truly representative one, explained the fact of many Mussulmans having kept aloof from the previous Congresses was due partly to certain special local and temporary causes. He urged that they should all combine in securing general reforms and rights, and went on to contend that, as educated natives of India, they were better judges of the blessings of good Government than were simple and ignorant peasants. If there ever arose a great struggle between Russia and England, who were the best able to judge of the relative merits of the two empires, educated natives or ignorant peasants? Of course educated natives were best qualified.

A Committee was then appointed to prepare a programme for the Congress proper, which commences its sittings to-morrow.

MOHAMMEDANISM :—To call a follower of the Prophet a "Mohammedan" is to offer him the same kind of insult that it is to call a devout Catholic a Papist. "Is it Mohammed," cried Abu Bakr, the most faithful of the Prophet's followers, to the fierce Omar, who, in the agony of his grief, swore that he would strike off the head of the first man who dared to say that the Prophet was dead—the Prophet could not be dead—"is it Mohammed or the God of Mohammed that he taught you to worship?" The creed is not "Mohammedanism," but "Islam"—a verbal noun, derived from a root which means submission to and faith in God—and the believer who so submits himself, calls himself not a Mohammedan, but a "Muslim"—a word derived from the same root, and also connected with "Salim," peace, and "Salym," healthy.—*Nineteenth Century.*

THE sittings of the Bengal Irrigation Commission were suspended during the Christmas holidays, Mr. Cotton and Mr. Odling having returned to Calcutta. They recommence work next week, as the inquiry is far from complete.

A STATEMENT has been prepared showing the result of the working of the late provincial contract in Bengal. The most striking fact is the proof afforded of the marvellous recuperative powers of the province, and the solid basis on which its natura wealth is founded.

A DURBAR was held by His Honor the Lieutenant Governor of the North Western Provinces, at the Government House, Allahabad, on Monday, the 19th of December.

HIS Honour the Lieutenant-Governor and Chief Commissioner, North-West Provinces and Oudh, will hold a Levee at Government House, Lucknow, at twelve o'clock on Thursday, the 5th January 1888.

A CHAPTER of the Indian Empire will be held at Government House on the 6th of February. Lord Connemara, who will arrive from Madras a few days before, will probably be present.

WEDNESDAY, 28TH DECEMBER.

THE proceedings of the Congress to-day were enthusiastic :

The speakers were well received. The first resolution, appointing a committee to consider the rules to be framed in regard to the constitution and working of the Congress, was proposed by Dr. Trailokyanath Mitter, seconded by Mr. Hamid Ali, and supported by Mr. Gantz, barrister-at-law, Madras. The resolution was carried. The next resolution occupied the rest of the day, it reaffirmed the necessity for the expansion and reform of the Viceregal council and Provincial councils already set forth in previous resolutions, and expressed an earnest hope that Government will no longer delay action in the direction of this essential reform. Baboo Surendra Nath Banerjee proposed the resolution in an eloquent address. Sir Madava Row seconded, and said he was thoroughly convinced as to the expediency of the measure proposed. Mr. Eardley Norton, barrister-at-law, Madras, supported the resolution in a vigorous speech. Several gentlemen spoke in support of the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

A LARGE and enthusiastic meeting of the friends of Rao Saheb Vishwanath Narayen Mandlik, C.S.I., was held on Sunday Dec. 18 at Petit Hall, Malabar Hill, to give expression to a very general feeling in Bombay that the long, zealous, and distinguished public services of the Rao Saheb deserve special recognition at the hands of his fellow citizens ; and to determine how effect may most appropriately be given to this sentiment. Sir Dinshaw Manockjee Petit was in the chair. The first resolution which was unanimously carried was to the following effect : 'That this meeting is of opinion that a suitable testimonial should be established in honour of Rao Saheb V. N. Mandlik, C.S.I., for the great and distinguished services which he has rendered to this country generally and to this city in particular.' An influential Committee has been appointed, and it has been resolved to open a subscription list. Mr. Mandlik's services will be served recognition at the hands of the general

LORD Randolph Churchill is now at St. Petersburgh His Lordship had an interview with M. de Giers. His Majesty the Czar was to have granted His Lordship an audience on Monday last. Notwithstanding that Lord Randolph Churchill disclaims being there on any political mission, the Russian papers express their belief that the cordial reception accorded to him on his arrival will favourably affect the relations between the two countries.

SIR Morell Mackenzie returned from San Remo, greatly pleased with the improvement noticeable in the condition of the Crown Prince's health. A slight swelling remains, and time alone can determine the nature of the disease.

MR. PORTAL'S mission to King John of Abyssinia has been unsuccessful. Rasalula and some other powerful Chiefs obstructed the progress of the mission as much as possible, and when Mr. Portal reached the Court of the Negus he was coldly received by the King, who declined to sue for peace to Italy.

THE news of King John's advance having been received, six thousand additional men are being sent to Massawah with all possible expedition, to reinforce the Italian troops already there.

NEWS from Massowah states that it is reported that King John, of Abyssinia, with a strong force, is advancing with great expedition against the Italian troops.

THE Countess of Dufferin will receive in Government House Gardens on Tuesday, the 10th proximo, from 4-30 to 6-30 P. M., and children are included in the invitation.

A COMMISSION has been appointed to enquire into the charges against Mr. Larpent, the late Registrar of the Punjab University. It consists of Mr. Elliot, Judge of Allahabad, Mr. Kiernander, of the Financial Department, and a Punjab officer.

THURSDAY, 29TH DECEMBER.

THE Congress resumed business this day at 12 30 :

The third Resolution resolved—"That the Congress once again placeson record an expression of the universal conviction that a complete separation of Executive and Judicial functions such that in no case the two functions shall be combined in the same officer, has become an urgent necessity, and that in its opinion it behoves the Government to effect this separation without further delay, even though this should in some provinces involve some extra expenditure." This was proposed by N. Subramani Iyer, seconded by Babu KaliChurn Bannerji, supported by Hafiz Abdul Rahim, and others, and carried unanimously.

The fourth Resolution resolved—"That in view of the loyalty of Her Majesty's Indian subjects, this Congress consider it desirable that the Queen's Proclamation should be given effect to, and the military service in its higher branches should be practically opened to the Natives of this country, and that for the training of Native officers in the British service, it is desirable that the Government should establish Military Colleges in this country, whereat the Natives of India, as defined by Statute, may be educated and trained for a military career as officers of the Indian army." This was proposed by Babu Norendra Nath Sen, seconded by Babu Saligram Singh, supported by Mr. Padsha, Professor of the Ahmedabad College, and others, and carried unanimously.

The fifth Resolution resolved—"That in view of the unsettled state of public affairs in Europe and the immense assistance that the people of this country, if duly prepared therefor, are capable of rendering to Great Britain in the event of any serious complications arising, this Congress once again earnestly appeals to the Government to authorize, under such rules and restrictions as may to it seem fitting, a system of Volunteering for the Indian inhabitants of the country, such as may qualify them to support the Government effectively in any crisis. This was proposed by Shankar Nair; seconded by Khan Bahadoor Sheik Ahmed Hossein Khan, supported by Rajah Rampal Sing, Bhogwandass, Malik Ali, and Mahomed Bhimjee, and carried unanimously.

The sixth Resolution resolved :—"That as the administration of the income-tax, especially as regards incomes below Rs. 1,000, has proved extremely unsatisfactory, it is essential, in the opinion of the Congress, that the taxable minimum be raised to Rs. 1,000, the loss of revenue thus involved being made good, and further financial difficulties, if any, being met by reductions in the existing public expenditure, or, should this prove impossible, by the re-imposition of an import duty on the finer classes of cotton goods." This was proposed by Babu GuruprasadSen, of Behar, seconded by Babu Jogender Chunder Ghose, Vakil, High Court, and carried unanimously.

THE Irish Land Commission have announced that, under the new Act, reductions averaging per cent. will be made on all judicial rents. The decision has caused a great sensation, and landlords are simply aghast at the

THE Queen in Council will make

Montgomery, educated at appointed to the entered the service of the in 1828. Having served in in 1849 he was selected by the late Dalhousie as one of the Commissioners for the newly annexed province of the Punjab, and on the dissolution of the Board in 1853, was appointed Judicial Commissioner, Superintendent of Prisons, and Director-General of Police for the whole province. During the Mutiny, in May, 1857, he adopted measures for disarming the large native force stationed at Lahore; was appointed Chief Commissioner of Oudh in 1858, and for his services in aiding the armies under Lord Clyde and restoring tranquility to the province, received the thanks of both Houses of Parliament and was created Knight Commander of the Bath. In 1859, he was appointed Lieutenant Governor of the Punjab, from which he retired in 1865, after service in India of upwards of thirty-six years. He is LL. D. of Trinity College, Dublin, and received the Grand Cross of the Star of India, Feb. 20, 1866. He was appointed a member of the Council of India in 1868.—

DRUNKENNESS has horrors and penalties enough, but the *Medical Press* has unearthed a new terror. It tells of a toper whose body was so saturated with alcohol that on lighting a candle the flame spread from the candle to his hands, ran up his arms, and enveloped the upper part of his body. The flame, which was of a bluish colour, was so destructive that although assistance was at hand, the injuries proved fatal in a few hours.

THE first sitting of the Mahomedan Educational Congress was held in the Baradari, Kaiserbagh, on Tuesday last. Between two and three hundred delegates were present, including some of the taluqdars, several orthodox Maulvies, and many Mahomedan gentlemen from Oudh, the North-West Provinces, the Punjab, Behar and Rampur. Munshi Imtiaz Ali was in the chair.

FRIDAY, 30TH DECEMBER.

THE Arms Act was the principal subject the Congress discussed to-day :

The party in favour of asking the Government to repeal the present Act were met by a section who considered such a sweeping change impracticable. A long and animated discussion ensued, resulting in the compromise and adoption of the following resolution :—"That in view of the loyalty of the people, the hardships which it causes, and the unmerited slur which it casts upon the people of this country, Government be moved so as to modify the provisions of chapter 4, and if necessary other portions of Act XI. of 1878, as shall enable all persons to wear the arms, unless debarred therefrom, either as individuals or members of particular communities, by Government for reasons to be recorded in writing and duly published.

Nature makes a vigorous protest against the acceptance by the President of the Royal Society of the post of M P for the University of Cambridge. The arguments against establishing such a relationship between science and politics are briefly these : Science is becoming more and more able to take care of itself, and is not likely to gain aught from backstairs political influence. Moreover, Professor Stokes is the mouth-piece of the Royal Society, a body which frequently has important relations with the Government, and it is highly necessary that the freedom of the President's intercourse with Ministers should be in no way trammelled by political relations. It is a question not of party, but of principle; and the same objections would obviously apply as much to a Liberal as to a Conservative P R S. The matter is thus summed up by *Nature* :—'The Society is now at the parting of the ways. Either it will continue its beneficent work for untold ages to come, untroubled by the transitory political and social storms raging around it; or, headed by politicians pledged to serve their party, it will gradually be dragged down into that miserable slough in which no capacity seems a guarantee against sophistical special pleading, and no character strong enough to escape degrading subserviency of party exigencies.' The editor does not exactly call upon Professor Stokes to drop the "P R S" when he adds the "M P," but he clearly intimates that such juxtaposition is likely to be regarded with little favour by scientific men. Professor Stokes, intends, we (*Pall Mall Gazette*) believe, to tender his resignation as Presi dent of the Royal Society.

MEETING of the Sir Richard Garth Testimonial was held in the Hall of the British Indian on Thursday at 4 P.M. The Hon. Mohun Mukerji, C.S.I., was in the chair. proposed by Babu Benode Behary Mullick seconded by Mr. R. Belchambers :—That in presence of the lamented death of Raja Rajendra Mullick Bahadur, H. H. the Maharaja of Durbhanga be elected president of the Committee, having signified by wire his assent to accept the office. The second resolution, proposed by the Hon. Raja Peary Mohun Mukerji, C.S.I., and seconded by Babu Nabagopal Mitter, was :—That the Executive Committee be requested to apply to the Hon. Jugdes of the High Court for permission to place the portrait of Sir Richard Garth in some prominent place in the High Court, and also to ask his Lordship the Chief Justice to preside at the unveiling ceremony. These resolutions were adopted, and the Hon. Raja Peary Mohun Mukerji, C.S.I., was elected Vice-President of the Committee.

THE question of a new Central Road from the Hughly Bridge to Sealdah came up for consideration at the meeting of the Municipal Commissioners on Thursday last. The following Resolution of the Town Council was submitted for confirmation. "That in taking up land for the new road the Commissioners should follow the principle of acquiring a considerable strip of land outside the regular line of the proposed street, the precise width being settled by the Committee. This course should be followed not only with the object of reselling the frontage land at a profit, owing to the enhanced value due to the new road, but also to enable them to redistribute the frontage land in convenient building blocks." Mr. Cotton's amendment was as follows :—"That the Commissioners adopt the project of constructing a new Central Road from the Hugli Bridge to Sealda in general outline as indicated in the late Officiating Chairman's note. They therefore request the Committee appointed by the Town Council on the 5th November to lose no time in preparing the best and most economical scheme for carrying out this most important work." The debate on the question has been adjourned for a week.

THE following remarks of the *Madras Mail* will be read with pleasure. 'Sir Lepel Griffin must be aware that so long as he holds office under the Crown he is not a free agent, and that he cannot consistently say all that he thinks. The Maharattas have a martial record. They have proved their qualities in years gone by; and if events should call for the display, they may be trusted to reassert themselves. But for the present they are the subjects (in Gwalior) of a feudatory of that Queen Empress who includes among her subjects no less than sixty-seven millions of Bengalis. They should be urged by every officer of that Empress to study to live peaceably with all Bengalis and other men.

* * *

Instead of being, as he probably believes, far in advance of the age in which he lives, Sir Lepel Griffin is far behind the times. His opinions might have suited the men and the minds of the early days of "John Company," but they are now outrageous, and their deliberate public expression is an insult to sixty-seven millions of his fellow subjects that reflects on the Government which he represents. The Marhattas are our brothers. It is a pride and pleasure to us to work with them with one heart and one mind for the common good of our country.

SATURDAY, 31ST DECEMBER.

THE Crown Prince has peremptorily refused to entertain any proposals having as their object the making of arrangements or the providing for a Regency in the event of the death of the Emperor.

STRONG popular discontent exists in St. Petersburgh regarding the manner in which the students have been treated by the University and school authorities. The Czar has ordered an enquiry to be made into their grievances.

THE Conference of the Bengal Commissioners commenced at Calcutta on Thursday. The chief subjects for discussion are the powers of Commissioners, and their relations towards the Board of Revenue and the Police Department. The Conference is fully attended, the Commissioners from all parts of the province being present. Besides the Commissioners, it includes Mr. Ware Edgar, the Hon. Mr. Macaulay, Mr. Nolan, Mr. Peacock, Mr. Halliday, and Mr. Veasy.

THE *Englishman* understands that, Sir Walter De Souza being about to retire from India, the various public and educational charities, which he has administered for the past sixteen years, will be made over to the Official Trustee. The amounts bequeathed at different times by Sir Walter's family for public charitable purposes amount to nearly ten lakhs of rupees.

ABOUT five o'clock, on Wednesday last, the residents at the General Hospital were startled by the report of a gun, and immediately afterwards it was discovered that MR. H. J. H. Fasson, Officiating Magistrate and Collector of Backerganj,—who arrived at the Presidency a few days ago, and went to reside with one of the medical officers at the Hospital,—was lying dead in the verandah, with a gun where it had dropped from his hand. Dr. Murray and Dr. Clarke were quickly on the spot, but it was found that death had been instantaneous. The deceased arrived in India in November, 1872, was engaged in famine relief duty at Dinagepur, and did good service as a District Officer.

A MEETING of the subscribers to the Kristodas Pal Memorial Fund will be held at the British Indian Association Hall on Wednesday, the 25th January, 1888, at 4-30 P. M., for the purpose of considering the Third Resolution passed at the Town Hall meeting, and determining what the form of the Memorial should be.

THE INDIAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE CULTIVATION OF SCIENCE.

(210, BOW-BAZAR STREET.)

(SESSION 1887-8.)

LECTURE by Dr. Mahendra Lal Sircar, on *Tuesday*, the *3rd January*, 1888, at 7 P. M.

Subject: Arago's Rotations and Faraday's explication of them.

LECTURE by the Rev. Father Lafont, S. J. I. E., on *Thursday*, the *5th Inst.*, at 7. P. M.

Subject: "Intensity and Propagation of Light."

LECTURE by Dr. Rajanikanta Sen, on *Friday* the *6th Inst.*, at 7 P. M.

Subject: "Methods of Calculation in Chemistry—The Metal Barium."

PRACTICAL CLASS in Chemistry under Babu Ram Chandra Datta, F. C. S., on *Saturday*, the *7th Inst.*, at 4 P. M.

Subject: Aluminium and Chromium.

MAHENDRA LAL SIRCAR, M. D.,
Honorary Secretary.

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The Hindoo Patriot.

MONDAY, JANUARY 2, 1888.

SOME of our contemporaries have published exaggerated accounts of Dr. Rajendralala Mitra's illness. We are glad to be able to assure our readers that nothing serious is the matter with our distinguished countryman, and that the apprehensions entertained are entirely groundless. The Doctor was taken suddenly ill on Monday night, but under the skilful treatment of Dr Sanders, he is progressing favorably, and hopes are entertained of his speedy recovery. That he may soon recover his health is the earnest prayer of all sections of the community both native and European.

RETROSPECT OF 1887.

THE curtain has dropped over another year. The year just closed had a most inauspicious beginning. It opened with an awful calamity at Madras where, in the Peoples' Park Fair, on New Year's Day, there was a disastrous fire which burnt to death about 400 persons. This melancholy event was followed by a series of disasters, both on land and at sea, in almost every part of the world, such as have seldom occurred within the brief space of a twelvemonth. Europe was shocked by some terrible earth-quakes in the north of Italy and south of France, more particularly in the region of Cannes, Nice and Monte-Carlo, and a town in Calabria was utterly destroyed. A theatre in England caught fire during a performance, and a frightful loss of life occurred. Numbers were crushed to death in the exits from the house, and more than 200 bodies were recovered from the ruins of the building. The railway catastrophe near Chatsworth in the United States was the worst ever recorded, the loss of life caused by it being never accurately ascertained, though it was found that about 400 people had been injured, many fatally. A shocking railway accident occurred in England near Doncaster by which many persons were killed and more were seriously injured. There was another terrible railway accident on the North-Western Railway near Umballa, the number of persons killed being very large. A terrific storm burst over Ireland and the west of England, the shores being strewn with wreckage from vessels which perished in the tempest. There was a severe cyclone in the Bay of Bengal. The record of the past year furnished a series of dreadful disasters at sea such as, perhaps, have never been witnessed in one single year. The *Tasmania*, the *Sir John Lawrence* and the *Retriever* were lost almost simultaneously; and later in the year the *Mahratta*, *the Earl of Jersey* and the *Arcot* were wrecked. A Chinese steamer on the way to Canton was destroyed by fire, over 300 persons being burnt to death or drowned. A most appalling collision happened on the English Channel where a screw-steamer was sunk with about 140 souls on board. Of all the numerous disasters of the past year, the loss of the *Sir John Lawrence* was the worst. That ill-fated vessel left the port of Calcutta on the 25th of May, when a violent storm was raging in the Bay of Bengal, with more than 700 Hindu pilgrims on their way to the great shrine of Juggernath, and was heard of no more. The occurrence of so many shipping casualties at once, and after a period of comparative immunity, was indeed very curious. The inundation of the Hoang-Ho or the Yellow River produced disastrous effects in North China. The river entirely left its old bed as it had done once before 30 years ago, and the floods reduced millions of people in Honan homeless and caused immense loss of life and property. The Nile reached an extraordinary height which produced serious floods. The past year was also remarkable for the virulence and intensity of the cholera and fever epidemics in many parts of India and these counted their victims by thousands. A disastrous fire at the Allahabad Secretariat Buildings towards the close of the year destroyed numerous old and valuable records. The bursting of the powder magazine at Amoy in China killed some 200 persons.

In the summer the political outlook both in Asia and Europe was gloomy in the extreme and war-alarms were rife. The protracted negotiations between England and Russia relating to the Kham-i-Ab question created much uneasiness in the public mind. The reports of military preparations made by Russia in Central Asia which were magnified by bazar rumours into gigantic proportions caused very great anxiety, and the attitude of the Russian Press tended to intensify it. But, happily, the long-protracted negotiations were at last brought to a peaceful termination. Russia agreed to abandon her claim to the Khoja Saleh district in consideration of a strip of pasture land in the Khusk Valley, and the arrangement thus concluded was embodied in a Protocol. Although the final settlement of the Afghan frontier question effected by Sir West Ridgeway brought the Russian out-posts eleven miles nearer to Herat, it was nevertheless a matter for congratulation that the delimitation business was brought to a conclusion. Considering that both Herat and Afghan Turkestan now practically lie at the mercy of the White Czar, who can occupy them whenever he likes to do so, it was perfectly immaterial whether Russia gained or not a single march and carried her camping ground closer to Afghanistan than Sarakhs and Merv. In the spring the situation in Afghanistan became critical and the cause of Abdur Rahman seemed all but hopeless. The Ghilzai rebellion assumed formidable proportions, and the Herat garrison mutinied. As there was some reason to suspect that Russian intrigue had something to do with these risings, the state of affairs in the Amir's dominions created a good deal of alarm. Abdur Rahman, however, succeeded in suppressing the Ghilzai revolt and in quelling the Herat mutiny. It was most fortunate for him that he had been enabled to do this before Ayub Khan effected his escape from Teheran and appeared on the Afghan frontier. Considering that the Amir is surrounded on all sides by enemies and that his government is not at all popular with his subjects, there can be no doubt that the arrival of Ayub Khan on the confines of Afghanistan before the Ghilzai rebellion and the Herat rising had been crushed, would have made Abdur Rahman's position quite untenable. The surrender of Ayub Khan to General MacLean, the British Agent at Meshed, towards the close of the year, removed a serious source of danger to the maintenance of peace in Afghanistan.

In Europe all the States kept themselves prepared to meet the worst, and from a state of preparedness for war to war itself the step is but a short one. Even astute politicians, who would not lightly hazard a statement, publicly declared that the political situation was fraught with serious danger. At one time the state of affairs, indeed, became very critical owing to the action of Germany and Russia. Prince Ferdinand having been invited by the Bulgarians entered Sophia and mounted the throne of the Principality. But Germany withheld her countenance from the Prince, and again sacrificed Bulgaria to her fear of a Russo-French alliance, although she did not actively support the Czar in a course of violent aggression in the Balkans. If she had done so, she would undoubtedly have driven Austria to armed resistance. But when Russia denounced Prince Ferdinand as an imprudent adventurer Germany followed suit. Prince Bismarck did not even disapprove the proposed Ernroth Mission; but the astute Chancellor refused to recommend it to the other powers, though he was willing to support it, if the Sultan gave his assent in the first instance on his own responsibility. So long as the Iron Chancellor pursued this policy, Europe was in a state of constant alarm, because no one could be altogether certain that Russia would not be emboldened by German's inaction to cross the Danube and settle the Bulgarian difficulty in her own way. But the political situation in Europe materially improved in the autumn. Signor Crispi, the Italian premier, paid a visit to Prince Bismarck, and after seeing the Chancellor he immediately went to wait upon his master, King Humbert. It was shortly afterwards announced that Italy had joined the Austro-German alliance, and Signor Crispi declared that the Cabinet of Rome could never permit the Levant to become a Russian Lake. Prince Bismarck's recognised organ in the Press at the same time distinctly stated that, as the result of the meeting between the two Ministers, Italy and Germany entered into a combination with Austria, and that these three Powers would work together to prevent the outbreak of a European war. Although England was not specifically mentioned in connection with the new Triple Alliance, it was generally felt that her sympathies were deeply bound up with Austria and Italy, and she would work in harmony with them in the interests of peace. This view was fully confirmed by Lord Salisbury's speech at the Guildhall banquet. The new Triple Alliance effected a marked improvement in the European situation, and removed for a time all uneasiness regarding the maintenance of European peace, beyond the fact of the keeping-up of enormous armaments by the powers. Towards the close of the year, however, the concentration of Russian troops in Besarabia and on the Galician frontier again produced a feeling of disquietude in Europe.

The past year witnessed the conclusion of Sir Henry Drummond Wolfe's long-protracted and apparently never-ending negotiations with the Porte, which resulted in the abortive Anglo-Egyptian Convention. England offered to evacuate Egypt on certain conditions which were embodied in the convention. France and Russia, however, sent strongly-worded notes to the Sultan protesting against the contemplated arrangement, and they threatened to declare war against Turkey if the Sultan ratified the Convention. These threats produced the desired effect, and the Convention fell through. Later in the year a Convention was made between the English and the French Governments regarding the neutralization of the Suez Canal. The agreement, however, made little real difference in the position of belligerents in the event of a European conflict. England's differences with France regarding the New Hebrides were also settled. The British Government threatened to bombard Hayti for enforcing a pecuniary claim against the Black Republic. The claim had arisen out of the seizure by the Haytians of certain property belonging to British subjects in the island of Tortuga. The dispute was, however, settled without a resort to arms. The whole of Zululand, with the exception of the new Republic, that is the territory ceded by the Zulus to the Boers in 1884, was annexed to the British Crown in the middle of the year. In the autumn affairs in Zululand assumed a threatening aspect, and troops were despatched thither from England. At one time appearances seemed to indicate that there would be a renewal of quarrel between France and Madagascar, arising out of the pretensions of the former Power to control too minutely the intercourse of the Malagasy State with foreign nations. The French Resident at Autananarivo threatened to leave Madagascar and an outbreak of hostilities seemed imminent. But the difficulty was satisfactorily arranged and diplomatic relations between the representative of France and the Government of Madagascar were resumed. The French Military Scandals attracted much notice. The main point of seriousness in these scandals lay in the fact that every change in the nature of the Government in France since the First Revolution had been preceded by some affair of this description; and that the stability of the Republic itself might be involved in the discredit which the Caffarel revelations brought upon the military administration of France. The scandals culminated in the resignation of the Presidentship by M. Grevy, though the charges brought against his son-in-law M. Wilson were found after enquiry to be untenable; and M. Sadi-Carnot was elected President. A Commission, consisting of six members, was constituted towards the close of the past year, with the consent of the Government of the United States, to deal with the Canadian Fishery question in all its bearings, Mr. Joseph Chamberlain being appointed as British Commissioner and Sir Charles Tupper as the representative of Canada. The six arbitrators received instructions to decide whether the Canadian Government, in excluding United State's fishing vessels from the harbours and territorial waters of Canada, was acting in accordance with international law. A dispute having

arisen between Italy and King John of Abyssinia, troops were sent from Rome to Massowah. The Queen of England, however, undertook the role of a peace-maker and sent a mission to Abyssinia with a view to effect an amicable settlement.

ENGLAND AT HOME.

The past Session of the British Parliament will be remembered as one of the longest, most exhausting and most unproductive on record. Nearly eight months were spent and the net result was the Crimes Bill for Ireland, and one or two other measures, such as the Irish Land Bill, the Allotments Bill and the Coal Mines Regulation Bill. It is no exaggeration to say that the past Session began with Ireland, finished with Ireland, and had little else than Ireland throughout the unusually protracted period of its existence. Alliance between the Conservatives and the Liberal Unionists was strengthened, one of the latter being appointed Chancellor of the Exchequer in succession to Lord Randolph Churchill. At an early period of the Session, however, Her Majesty's Government found that even with the warm co-operation of the Liberal Unionists, the progress of the Crimes Bill could not be expedited. The Ministry frequently exercised the power of closing debates and when this remedy failed, they adopted the plan of peremptorily fixing a date for the conclusion of the discussion. The sittings of the House of Commons were often prolonged till three, four and five o'clock in the morning, and the license of speech was carried much further than ever before. There were many "scenes" in the House, and unparliamentary language was often made use of. Even Hon'ble members did not hesitate to call one another "liars," and the Speaker had constantly to face attempts to weaken the authority of the Chair. More than three weeks of the Session were wasted on a debate on the Address, which was not voted until the closure had been applied. Then the question of Parliamentary procedure was taken up and the discussion on the closure lasted nearly a whole month. The new rule adopted by the House provided that the motion for closing the debate might be made by any member at any time, and might be carried by a bare majority, provided that at least 200 members were in favour of it: but as a security against unfairness it was stipulated that the closure should take effect unless the Speaker or Chairman of Committees interposed on the ground that the motion was an abuse of the rules of the House and an infringement of the rights of the minority. After the question of Parliamentary procedure had been settled, the real work of the Session commenced at the latter end of March, and the Crimes Bill was introduced It could not have been carried through the House of Commons during the Session if Her Majesty's Government had not, with the support of the Liberal Unionists, adopted the plan of peremptorily fixing a date for the conclusion of the debate. The two chief measures of the Session—the Crimes Bill and the Land Bill—were practically unresisted in the Upper House. It was not until these two Bills had been got out of the way, that Parliament could give any attention to other matters. Owing to want of time there was a large slaughter of the Innocents; and several measures of considerable public importance were thrown overboard. The Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland having, in exercise of the discretion given to him by the Crimes Act, proclaimed the National League, Mr. Gladstone, in a singularly able and eloquent speech, moved a resolution condemning the proclamation. The debate that followed was certainly the most brilliant and important of the Session. Lord Hartington supported the Executive in the exercise of their discretion, though he doubted the wisdom of the proclamation; while Mr. Joseph Chamberlain voted in favour of Mr. Gladstone's motion. The resolution, however, was rejected by a larger majority than had been expected. The proceedings of the Executive in giving effect to the provisions of the Crimes Act caused many riots and breaches of the peace in Ireland, some of which were attended with loss of life. But Her Majesty's Government were more determined than ever to subordinate everything to carrying out their policy of co-ercion in Ireland, and they claimed that there has been a marked improvement, in the condition of that unfortunate country since the Crimes Act has been in operation. Mr. Wilfrid Blunt, in attempting to hold a proclaimed Meeting of the Home Rule Union at Galway, was arrested and sentenced to two months' imprisonment. The unemployed in London made demonstrations of a menacing character, which generally ended in skirmishes with the Police. The meetings of the unemployed were proclaimed by the Commissioner of Police, but in defiance of that proclamation, the Radical Societies of London made persistent attempts to hold meetings at Trafalgar Square. On one occasion there was a desperate conflict between the Police and the Socialists, and upwards of 100 persons were taken to the London hospitals for treatment of wounds received in the affray, and the Police made no less than 400 arrests.

INDIA IN ENGLAND.

Long as has been the Parliamentary Session of 1887, it has been absolutely barren of results so far as India is concerned. And yet in no previous House of Commons have there been so many members sincerely desirous of treating Indian questions with the attention they deserve and capable of doing so. The number of debates on Indian subjects in either House during the past Session was extremely small. As Irish questions came up incessantly in both Houses, the noble Lords and the Hon'ble Commons had no time and attention to spare for other matters. Discussions on Foreign, Colonial and Indian affairs were equally rare and spiritless. In the Upper House there was not, properly speaking, a single debate upon an Indian subject throughout the past Session, if we except the short conversation on the celebrated Luidman-Hearsay case. Lord Stanley of Alderley laid the people of India under a deep obligation by drawing the attention of his brother peers to the grievous wrong which had been done to the zemindars of Arnigadh for the purpose of providing a better botanical garden for Mussoorie, and to the extraordinary conduct of Sir Alfred Lyall, as it arose out of the spoliation of those zemindars. His Lordship pointed out that these poor people had been forcibly deprived of lands and houses valued at Rs. 20,000 for a nominal sum of Rs. 5,700, the larger part of which was given to a Mohunt who was receiving only Rs. 5 as rent; and that they had been reduced from a position of comparative opulence to one of extreme poverty. Lord Stanley, in the next place, related the administrative abuses and the arbitrary conduct to which the spoliation of the Arnigadh zemindars had led the late Lieutenant-Governor of the North-Western Provinces. His Lordship made out a strong case for interference on the part of the Secretary of State. But Lord Cross declined either to remedy the wrong which had been done to the Arnigadh Zemindars or to take any notice of Sir Alfred Lyall's conduct. There was no other debate upon Indian subjects in the House of Lords last year, but the discussion on the Currency question which was raised by the Duke of Marlborough, had a peculiar interest for the people of this country. The utterances of Lord Salisbury on this occasion clearly shewed that his Lordship did not possess even an elementary knowledge of the subject; and that it would have been better for his reputation if he had maintained silence. It was really amazing to find the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom ignorant of such a simple and well-known fact, that the ratio between gold and silver fixed by the French Bimetallic Law at the beginning of this century had been kept stable for nearly 70 years by the action of France alone. Lord Salisbury's speech did not encourage the hope that the labours of the Currency Commission now sitting in London would result in the adoption of a scheme of International bi-metallism, which alone can put a stop to the heavy loss by Exchange which now figures in the Indian Budget.

In the Lower House the Duke of Connaught's Leave Bill gave rise to an animated and instructive debate. Several speakers, who took part in it, condemned in emphatic terms the practice of appointing Royal personages to high positions in the Army; and it became evident that the public feeling against that practice was rapidly growing in the United Kingdom. The Indian Budget was, as usual, laid during the closing hours of the Session before empty benches. Its introduction was, however, marked by a noteworthy incident. On Sir John Gorst's motion to go into Committee, Mr. Charles Bradlaugh strongly protested against the practice of making the Under-Secretary's statement of the financial transactions and position of India at the fag-end of the Session. Several members of the House joined in this protest and urged with great force that it was not right to leave to the last moment of the Session the only opportunity, that was afforded to Parliament, of considering the wishes and grievances of 200 millions of people whom England has undertaken to rule. But these expressions of opinion were of little practical use. Sir John Gorst held out no hope of improvement in this respect in the future. The Under-Secretary, as might have been expected, presented to the House a *couleur de rose* view of Indian finance, although he was constrained to admit certain unpleasant facts. He had to confess that the financial position was much worse than had been disclosed in Sir Auckland Colvin's Budget. He acknowledged that estimates in regard to Upper Burma had proved wrong on both sides of the accounts, and that financially the latest addition to Her Majesty's Indian Empire had so far been a disappointment. Sir John Gorst, of course, maintained the view that the Indian railways are paying concerns; but he was driven by the very force of facts to say in the same breath that the Government, instead of making a profit out of them, was obliged to incur a large and increasing annual charge on their account The discussion which followed Sir John Gorst's speech was not in any way striking, except that Sir Richard Temple was in his most robust mood of optimism.

The attention which Indian affairs received in England outside Parliament during the past year was equally small. The English periodical Press, however, published some interesting articles on India. The most important of them were Mr. Herbert Gladstone's "First Visit to India" in the *Nineteenth century*, and Mr. Dadabhai Nowroji's papers in the *Contemporary Review* criticising Sir Grant-Duff's reply to Mr. Samuel Smith's articles in the same magazine entitled "India Revisited." Mr. Herbert Gladstone's essay was a masterly one, and discussed with remarkable ability some of the most important questions of Indian administration. He strongly advocated the reconstitution of the Legislative Councils in India upon a popular basis. He urged that election should be substituted for nomination in the appointment of non-official Members; and that the local budget should be thrown open to interpellation. Mr. Dadabhai Nowroji's thorough knowledge of the economic condition of India enabled him to demolish Sir Grant-Duff's strictures upon Mr. Samuel Smith's articles, and to prove conclusively that the incidence of taxation in this country is very heavy. The discussion of Indian subjects on the platform during the past year was very rare. The only notable exceptions were Lord Cross's address to the Primrose League at Ashton-under-Lyne and Mr. A. K. Connell's lecture on the admission of Natives of India to the Covenanted Civil Service, delivered before the East India Association. Lord Cross, in the course of his speech, prided himself on the fact that he had done everything in his power to further the remission of the cotton duties, and he declared that the idea of re-imposing those duties was so preposterous that it could not be entertained for a moment. On the occasion of Mr. Connell's lecture before the East India Association, Mr. Dadabhai Nowroji made a stirring appeal to the British public to fulfil the solemn pledges given to the people of India in the matter of their employment in the Public service of their own country by Parliament and by their Gracious Sovereign in the Proclamation of 1858. Many Indian Princes and Noblemen visited England last year to take part in the celebration of the Jubilee of their beloved Empress and returned home, with one single exception, greatly pleased with the reception which had been given to them. The scheme of commemorating the Jubilee year of Her Majesty's reign by the establishment of an Imperial Institute made considerable progress during the past year.

PERSONNEL OF GOVERNMENT.

All the three Lieutenant-Governorships in the Bengal Presidency changed hands during the past twelvemonth. Mr. James Lyall took over charge of the Punjab and its Dependencies from Sir Charles Aitchison at the very beginning of April, and a week later Sir Steuart Bayley ascended the Belvedere *musnud* in succession to Sir Rivers Thompson. Towards the close of the year, Sir Alfred Lyall, on the expiration of the seven months' extension of office which had been granted to him, was relieved by Sir Auckland Colvin. All the Chief Commissionerships also changed hands during the past year. Sir Charles Bernard, having incurred the displeasure of the Supreme Government for his failure to accomplish the impossible task of pacifying Upper Burma with the rapidity desired by the British public, was replaced by Mr. Charles Crosthwaite at Rangoon. The transfer of the latter officer to Burma having left the Chief Commissionership of the Central Provinces vacant, Mr. Alexander Mackenzie, Secretary to the Government of India in the Home Department, was permanently appointed to it. Mr. Dennis Fitzpatrick, who was acting at Nagpore, was first translated to the Mysore Residency and was then made Chief Commissioner of Assam, displacing Mr. W. E. Ward who had been acting in the post for a very long time. On the retirement of Colonel Sir Edward Bradford from the Abu Residency and Chief Commissionership of Ajmere-Merwara, Colonel C. K. M. Walter was given the most coveted post in the whole Political Department. The Mysore Residentship and Chief Commissionership of Coorg having again fallen vacant in consequence of Mr. Fitzpatrick's transfer to Assam, it was bestowed upon Sir Harry Prendergast, the Hero of Mandalay, apparently as a reward for his services rendered while in command of the Upper Burma Expedition. Several changes also occurred in the Viceroy's Executive Council last year. Sir Steuart Bayley's place as Home Minister was permanently filled by Sir Charles Aitchison, and during the absence of the latter on six months' leave Mr. James Peile was appointed to act for him. Sir Theodore Hope's term of office having expired, Sir Charles Elliot was appointed as Public Works Minister. Sir Auckland Colvin having gone home on short leave previous to assuming charge of the United Provinces, Mr. James Westland was selected to act for him. But it was settled that Mr. D. M. Barbour would take charge of the portfolio of Indian finance after the conclusion of his labours on the Currency Commission now sitting at home. Sir Maxwell Melvill's death having created a vacancy in the Council of the Governor of Bombay, Mr. J. B. Richey was appointed to it, and Mr. Justice Raymond West was selected to succeed Mr. James Peile when the latter proceeded to England to join the Council of the Secretary of State for India. In the India Council there occurred altogether four vacancies during the past year owing to the deaths of Mr J. R. Bullen-Smith, the Hon'ble Sir Ashley Eden and Sir Robert Montgomery, and the retirement of Sir R. A. Dalyell. Three of these places were filled by Mr. Robert Hardie, Mr. James Peile, and Sir Alexander Arbuthnot. The Duke of Cannaught temporarily relinquished the command of the Bombay Army in the summer, but in the autumn H. R. H. returned to India and resumed charge of it.

FINANCIAL.

The financial position of the Empire occupied a good deal of public attention during the past year. The Financial Statement for 1887-88 was the most melancholy and disheartening issued by the Government of India since the introduction of the budget system. The Statement clearly showed that although the revenues at the disposal of Government had increased by nearly three-crores of rupees in two years, yet the Finance Minister was hardly able to make the two ends meet. Even by misappropriating the Famine Insurance Fund and starving the Provinces all that he could do was to anticipate a small surplus of £16,700 for 1887-88. This nominal surplus, as subsequent events showed, had been secured by under-estimating the cost of the military operations in Upper Burma and by over-estimating the expected revenue from that Province, and also by taking the rate of exchange for the current year at 17½ pence when, as a matter of fact, the rate at the time of the preparation of the Budget, was below 17 pence. The most noticeable features of the Financial Statement for 1887-88 were the diversion of the Famine Insurance Fund from its original object of reducing debt and constructing public works of an anti-famine character to meet the ordinary administration charges of the Empire, and the revision of the Provincial Contracts by which the incomes enjoyed by the Local Governments and Administrations were greatly curtailed. The Finance Minister, as might have been expected, was at much pains to justify both these measures. In defending the absorption of the Famine Insurance Fund he attempted to make out that the measure did not involve any breach of faith on the part of the Government. But in doing so, he conveniently ignored the fact that, when additional burdens were imposed upon the people of India in 1878, Lord Lytton, the then Viceroy, had given a most solemn and emphatic pledge to them that the proceeds of the increased taxation would be applied to the purpose of insuring their country against the worst calamities of famine, and that not a single rupee of the special sources thus created would be spent on works of a different character. The Budget for 1887-88 conclusively proved that but for the annexation of Upper Burma, the misappropriation of the Famine Fund would not have been necessary, inasmuch as it showed that Burma had caused an additional expenditure of three crores of rupees. The new Contracts with the Provincial Governments were based on the recommendations of the Finance Committee, and their net result was an addition of nearly half a crore of rupees to the Imperial revenues. The general dictum on which the Finance Minister relied in vindicating the action of the Supreme Government in retrenching the incomes of the several Local Governments, was that the Empire must be treated as a whole and not as a collection of separate and semi-independent States. There can be no doubt that the Government of India, from its superior and controlling position, had the right, at the end of a provincial contract, to revise the terms and enforce new ones in their place. But on this occasion the Imperial Government exercised its powers of revision in such a way that the Local Governments were left not even enough to meet the bare necessities of administrative existence. The era of Provincial improvement was thus summarily closed. The financial situation as disclosed in the Budget of 1887-88 was in all conscience gloomy enough; but the outlook became worse as the year advaced; and Sir John Gorst, in making his financial statement in the House of Commons in the autumn, had to admit that the anticipations of the Government of India had been falsified by the increased expenditure on account of Upper Burma and by a steadily falling exchange. Towards the close of the year rumours were rife to the effect that the income-tax would be enhanced to meet the deficit. The final Report of the Finance Committee having been submitted, the Committee was dissolved. Sir John Gorst announced in his place in Parliament that the recommendations made by the Committee were under the consideration of the Government of India during the past year with a view to early action.

LEGISLATIVE.

The Imperial Legislative mill was not particularly active during the past year. Mr. Andrew Scoble, the new Legal Member, who had joined his post shortly before its commencement, naturally took time to reconnoitre the position. Nevertheless, several measures of great public interest were added to the Statute-book during the past Simla season. The most important of these were the Punjab Tenancy Act, the Punjab Land Revenue Act, the Allahabad University Act and the Wajid Ali Shah Estate Regulation Act. The main object of the Punjab Tenancy Act was the conversion of superior tenants into inferior proprietors—a result which was achieved by allowing the rents of these privileged classes to depend upon the Government assessment instead of upon the letting value of land. Although the new Act did not define rights of occupancy, it prescribed the method of acquiring them. Under the old law the only way in which a right of occupancy could be acquired independently of express grant or contract, was by the fulfilment of certain conditions as to rent and length of occupation. These conditions had, however, been so framed as to operate very capriciously in different ways. The new Act removed this and definitely settled the period during which the power of acquiring rights of occupancy is to run. The Punjab Land Revenue Act simply gave statutory recognition to the new system of revenue administration, which had been introduced into the Province on the recommendation of the Famine Commission. But it was felt by the most experienced Revenue officers that this new method of revenue work would hurry on the extinction of that village system which is everywhere decaying in India; and that its inevitable result would be that in course of time the Punjab would be gradually transformed from a village to a ryotwari tenure. The new revenue system would, however, have one advantage: it would favour an increased resort to annual and fluctuating assessments in place of those fixed for a considerable period; and that suspensions would be granted when necessary. Should the new system gradually bring about an assessment varying directly with the crop, a great reform in revenue administration will have been effected. The Allahabad University Act was passed in order to enable Sir Alfred Lyall to carry out a measure upon which he had set his heart. His original idea was to establish a *teaching* as well as an *examining* University at the capital of the North-Western Provinces, but that plan was abandoned as impracticable in India; and the constitution of the Allahabad University was modelled upon that of its three elder sisters. There was no necessity whatever for the creation of a separate examining body for the United Provinces, the Central Provinces and Rajputana. The ground on which the measure was advocated was that the people of the Upper Provinces differed from those of the Lower in manners, habits and social characteristics. All right-minded persons, however, failed to understand how such differences could in any way necessitate a separate organisation for the ascertainment of the learning of the candidates from the Upper Provinces. It was felt that the reasons urged were not the real ones; and that as the real reasons could not with propriety be avowed, some plausible ones were put forward for the sake of appearance. There can be little doubt that the considerations which influenced the authors of the Allahabad University scheme were local jealousy and a desire to modify and lower the standards fixed by the Calcutta University. As the measure was carried through the Legislative Council at Simla in the absence of the non-official Additional Members, its merits could not be properly discussed. The Wajid Ali Shah Estates Regulation Act was passed at one sitting of the Council in order to prevent litigation concerning the property left by His Majesty the late ex-king of Oudh. Of the Acts of minor importance passed during the year by the Viceroy's Legislaive Council, Mr. Peile's Game Protection Act excited a good deal of public discussion. This measure was not in the nature of a Game Law which would have interfered with the liberty of the European sportsman. Its only object was to deprive the poor hill-men and jungle-men who earned a precarious livelihood by selling game in municipal towns and cantonments of the means of their subsistence.

The past year witnessed an addition to the number of Provincial Councils for making laws. A new legislative mill was set up in the United Provinces, although no necessity had been made out for it. The North-West Council passed only one measure last year—the General Clauses Act. This measure would not have been required, but for the creation of the new Council. The Bengal Council, under the judicious guidance of Sir Steuart Bayley, was not very active last year. Sir Rivers Thompson had been particularly anxious to pass his pet Municipal Amalgamation Bill before his retirement; but his wishes could not be fulfilled, and he had reluctantly to leave the measure to be dealt with

by his successor. At the close of the last session of the Council the Select Committee had submitted their report, but at the commencement of the current session the Bill was sent back to the Committee for further consideration. The Municipal Bill introduced into the Bombay Council considerably exercised the minds of our countrymen of the Western Presidency. It proposed sweeping changes in the Municipal constitution of the city. The Bill was in fact a retrograde measure which sought to extend the powers of the Municipal Commissioner to an almost unlimited extent, whilst it ignored, if it did not altogether abolish, both Municipal Corporation and Town Council. The principle on which the Bill was based was entirely a wrong one, and its provisions implied a want of confidence in both bodies and a transfer of that confidence to the Municipal Commissioner. Towards the close of the year it was rumoured that important changes had been made in the Bill so as to make the measure acceptable to the public. The only measure of importance before the Madras Legislative Council, last year, was a Bill to enlarge the jurisdiction of the Village Munsiffs, which excited much public interest.

POLITICAL.

The most important political event of the past year in India was, of course, the celebration of the Jubilee of Her Majesty, the Queen Empress, from one end of the country to the other. All sections of the community, without distinction of race, colour or creed, vied with one another in manifesting their devoted loyalty and attachment to the throne and person of their Gracious and beloved Sovereign. The demonstrations made on this unique and exceptional occasion were quite worthy of the noblest Sovereign that ever sat on a throne and whose character as a mother, as a wife and as a Queen stands unparalelled. There was not a single intelligent Indian that did not rejoice at the completion of the fiftieth year of his Sovereign's most glorious and beneficent reign. The Jubilee Durbar, held in Calcutta by the Viceroy, was a very grand affair, and the speech which His Excellency made in replying to the loyal addresses presented by public bodies and associations was also worthy of the occasion. Lord Dufferin expressed his approval of the natural ambition of educated Indians to be extensively associated with their English rulers in the administration of their own domestic affairs. His Lordship declared in emphatic terms that he would be glad and happy if he should, during his tenure of the Viceroyalty, be permitted to place upon a wider and more logical footing the political status which was so wisely given a generation ago by that great statesman, Lord Halifax, to such Indian gentlemen as, by thier influence, their acquirements and the confidence they inspired in their fellow-countrymen, were marked out as useful adjuncts to our Legislative Councils. This expression of generous sympathy with the legitimate ambition of educated Indians to take a fair share in the conduct of the affairs of their own country, was hailed with joy throughout the length and breadth of the Empire, and it naturally encouraged the hope that Lord Dufferin would do all that lies in his power to reform the existing system of Indian administration on the lines indicated in his Lordship's Jubilee speech.

In Feudatory India the most striking political event of the past year was the magnificent offer of sixty lakhs of Rupees made by the Nizam of Hyderabad as a free gift to the Government of India for strengthening the defences of the Empire. The significance of this generous contribution lay in the fact that the money was to be devoted to a distinct purpose of a patriotic character. It proved to demonstration the utter groundlessness of the theory which finds so much favour with the war party in Russia, that the Princes and people of India are so much discontented with British rule, that they would welcome the Muscovite invader with open arms as a deliverer from the hated English yoke. Lord Dufferin acknowledged the Nizam's loyal offer in handsome terms; and in doing so, His Lordship gave a broad hint that the other feudatory Chiefs should follow the example which had been set by His Highness. After this expression of opinion on the part of the Viceroy the Native Princes felt themselves under an obligation to make similar offers as they naturally thought that if they did not do so their loyalty would be liable to be questioned. The Chief of Kapurthala made an offer of five lakhs of rupees. These two free gifts were duly acknowledged, but they were not formally accepted. Notwithstanding the embarrassments of the Government of India, we felt it our duty to point out that there were strong objections to anything like a system of "benevolences" in this country. The Gwalior Loan also received a good deal of public attention during the past year, and the Native community throughout India strongly condemned the action of the Governor-General's Agent in Central India in making a State which was practically under British administration lend such a large sum as three and-a-half crores of Rupees to the Government of India at four per cent.

There was a change of Ministry in Hyderabad. The young Nawab Salar Jung, who had been selected Prime Minister by Lord Ripon when the Nizam in coming of age was invested with full powers, was obliged to relinquish his post and leave Hyderabad for a year. Nawab Osman Jah was appointed to succeed him, but all real power passed into the hands of Colonel Marshall, who had, a short time before, been made as Secretary and Adviser to the Nizam. There was a proposal to introduce the Cabinet system into Hyderabad and to appoint two Secretaries of State; but it could not be carried out. The affairs of Bhopal received a good deal of public attention during the past year, and the high-handed proceedings of Sir Lepel Griffin towards the Begum and her supporters were fully exposed. An important reform—the separation of Judicial from Executive functions—was effected in Travancore, which has always been regarded as a model Native State. The Mysore Representative Assembly which, as usual, met at the time of the Dusserah festival, performed an important service by protesting against the practice of the Maharajah spending the hot season at Ootacamand. The state of affairs in Kashmir went from bad to worse during the past year, and there were loud complaints against the high-handed and arbitrary proceedings of the new Prime Minister, Dewan Luchman Das. All real power was, with the support of the British Resident, transferred to the Dewan, the Maharaja being reduced to the position of a mere figure-head. The young and spirited Chief of Jhallawar in Rajputana who had been educated at the Mayo College was deprived of his powers, because he had the misfortune to incur the displeasure of the Political Agent at his Court by his independence. There was a daring but ineffectual insurrection at Munipore. It was the fourth attempt to overthrow the Maharaja which has been made since the beginning of 1886. The Viceroy, in the course of his autumn tour, visited the State of Kaparthala in the Punjab and Bharatpur in Rajputana; but these visits did not possess any political significance. They were nothing more than shooting excursions.

ADMINISTRATIVE.

Few important measures relating to the internal administration of the Empire were initiated or carried out during the past year. The Viceroy was too busy with the affairs of Burma and the defences of the Empire to attend to any thing else. A scheme for raising United Burma to the status of a Lieutenant-Governorship was submitted to the India Office for sanction; but Lord Cross rightly put his foot upon it. The beginning of the year found the Public Service Commission busily engaged in taking evidence on the questions referred to it for consideration and report. When the examination of witnesses on the first branch of the enquiry, which had been limited to the Covenanted Civil Service and the Judicial and Executive branches of the Uncovenanted Service, was completed in the spring a Sub-Committee of the Commission was constituted under the presidency of Sir Charles Turner to deal with the special departments connected with the Civil Administration of the country. The Sub-Committee commenced its work here and then visited Allahabad, Lahore, Simla, Madras and Bombay. In the autumn the President, Sir Charles Aitchison, having returned from leave, the entire Commission re-assembled in this city to frame their recommendations and settle their report, and the work was finished in the closing week of the year Early last year the question of abolishing the Bengal Agricultural Department came up before the Government of India for consideration. Although the Department had done nothing to justify its existence, and no necessity for keeping it up had been made out, the Supreme Government recommended the Secretary of State to sanction its retention as a permanent arrangement. The Rukmabai case having produced a loud outcry against the law for restitution of conjugal rights, the Bombay Government moved the Government of India to amend the Civil Procedure Code, and proposed that though the suit for conjugal rights should be retained, the person against whom a decree is passed in such a suit should be exempted from liability to imprisonment. The Supreme Government issued a circular to all local Governments and Administrations calling upon them for an expression of opinion as to the direction and manner in which the proposed amendment might be made. The Provincial Governments were also required to consider and report on the question of laying down by law a standard measure of length for India. The part of British India, which was under the administration of the Governor-General's Agent in Beluchistan, inclusive of the tracts annexed under the ill-fated Treaty of Gundamuk, was constituted into a Chief Commissionership under the name of the Chief Commissionership of British Beluchistan. The past year witnessed the introduction of a new scale of pensions for the Uncovenanted service. The new Rules did not make any substantial concessions to the lower classes of Government servants. Special measures were adopted at a considerable additional cost to accelerate promotion in the Telegraph Department. Inducements were offered to officers in the "blocked" years to retire from the service, the number of appointments in the higher grades was increased and a liberal scale of personal allowances for officers of a certain standing was sanctioned. The Goverment of India recorded an admirable Resolution on the important question of Jail administration. In reviewing the Provincial Jail Reports for 1886, the Supreme Government earnestly requested the Local Governments and Administrations to maintain their efforts to reduce the punishment of whipping in jails to a minimum and to reserve it as a last resource of discipline against contamacy. The Local Governments were further desired to improve the conditions of jail life with a view to reduce sickness and mortality amongst prisoners. The Bengal Government was plainly told that punishments are unnecessarily inflicted in the jails under its control, and that there is a tendency on the part of its jail establishment to interfere without cause, and be somewhat over-bearing in their dealings with the prisoners. Some mild steps were taken last year to reduce the number and bulk of the annual departmental administration reports, the preparation and printing of which involve much waste of public time and money.

PROVINCIAL.

The General Administration of the Provinces was carried on during the past year, as before, on the lines already laid down, and, except in Bengal, there was nothing to distinguish it from the ordinary run of events. Sir Rivers Thompson, on the eve of his retirement from the service, did a good and just act by punishing the wrong-doers in the Rungpore Deer case. He recorded a minute strongly condemning the proceedings of the local authorities in connection with that case, and he punished them, though the punishments meted out were quite inadequate. But in dealing with the report of the Salaries Commission the late Lieutenant-Governor was found lamentably wanting. Although he had, in appointing the Commission, distinctly admitted the necessity of increasing the pay of the Ministerial officers in Bengal, and although the Commission had strongly recommended an increase, Sir Rivers utterly stultified himself, and held that no improvement in the position of these officers was needed. Sir Rivers Thompson's friends did not allow him to depart in peace. They held a private meeting and initiated a bole-and-corner movement for a

Thompson Testimonial. The departing Lieutenant-Governor was entertained at a private subscription dinner and a valedictory address was presented to him by his friends. At no stage of the proceedings was there a shadow of a pretence made to give the movement a popular or public character The whole thing was, indeed, a private affair and did not possess any significance. Sir Rivers did not leave Bengal without having a review of his five years' administration of the Province being drawn up by a selected Member of the Civil Service. The expenditure of public money on a matter of mere personal vindication was utterly unjustifiable; but the late Lieutenant Governor, who was particularly anxious to shew that his reign in Bengal had proved a brilliant success, did not allow himself to be influenced by any such consideration. The assumption of the reins of the Bengal Government by Sir Steuart Bayley in the spring was hailed with joy by the people of these provinces. The retirement of Sir Rivers Thompson would, under any circumstances, have been a relief; but when his mantle fell upon an officer like Sir Steuart, whose antecedents were entirely in his favour, the change was doubly welcome. The new Lieutenant-Governor's rule had a most auspicious beginning. Shortly after his accession to the Belvedere *musnud*, he was called upon to deal with a number of cases of official wrong-doing or high-handedness in which some Members of his own service, and one of them occupying a very high position, were concerned; and he proved equal to the occasion. The indebtedness of Mr. John Beames, acting Junior Member of the Board of Revenue, having been brought to light, Sir Steuart took the matter up and made a thorough investigation. He laid all the facts of the case before the Supreme Government, which pronounced the accused guilty and directed his removal from his officiating seat on the Board. In the Meherpore case Sir Steuart Bayley took prompt notice of the conduct of Mr. Luson, the Sub-divisional Magistrate, who had caused no less than 43 persons to be whipped for committing no offence at all. Though the punishment meted out to the delinquent was not at all adequate, still the Native public felt grateful to the new Lieutenant-Governor for his action. In the Nowgong case, too, in which a Sub-divisional Magistrate had caused a respectable Bengali widow to be subjected to a gross outrage, Sir Steuart failed to punish the offender according to his deserts. Mr. Glazier, the late Magistrate of Mymensingh and the Sub-divisional Officer of Jamalpore, who had distinguished themselves by their illegal and arbitrary proceedings in connection with a Hindu *Mela*, were transferred from their respective charges. The Puri Temple case, to the credit of the British Government, was withdrawn under the orders of the new Lieutenant-Governor. Sir Steuart's action in the Burdwan Adoption case, however, was extremely disappointing. The wisest course would certainly have been to have left the question to be decided by the highest tribunal in the Province; but, instead of doing this, the Lieutenant-Governor accepted the recommendation of theBoard of Revenue and sanctioned the adoption of Lala Ban Behari Kapur's son by the young Maharani. Sir Steuart Bayley made a prolonged tour during the rains, in the course of which he visited all the Behar districts and some of the districts of Northern and Central Bengal. The most noticeable event of the tour was the Durbar held at Bankipore for granting *sanads* to the Native gentlemen on whom honors had been conferred on the occasion of the Jubilee. Sir Steuart made a remarkable speech at the Durbar, in which he made some very sensible remarks on several important administrative questions. He declared in emphatic terms that he had been a believer in the principle of Local Self-government from the beginning and taken a great interest in its development. Referring to addresses and receptions given to the Lieutenant-Governor while on tour, Sir Steuart distinctly said that he would prefer to receive addresses unaccompanied with costly caskets, and he deprecated giving dinners and entertainments in which the givers can take no part. During Sir Steuart's visit to Arrah the Zemindars and ryots of Shahabad presented memorials to him praying for the redress of their grievances caused by the present system of administering the Sone canals. The Lieutenant-Governor appointed a Commission under the presidency of Mr. H. J. S. Cotton to make an enquiry into the subject. His Honor recorded an excellent minute on the inexorable Sunset Law and enjoined on Collectors a wise and considerate exercise of the discretion which the law allows them to exempt estates from sale. The celebrated Dacca Municipal case was decided last year in favour of the plaintiff, and the Commissioners were ordered to refund from their pockets the Municipal money which they had misspent in giving a reception to Sir Rivers Thompson against the wishes of the ratepayers. This decision established an important precedent. The Second General Municipal Election in Bengal took place towards the close of the year and passed off satisfactorily.

In the North-Western Provinces and Oudh the past year began with the establishment of a Legislative Council and ended with the inauguration of the new Allahabad University. These two measures marked the last year of Sir Alfred Lyall's reign. In other respects, the late Lieutenant-Governor contented himself with merely carrying on the routine work of administration. On the eve of his departure some valedictory addresses were presented to him at Lucknow, under official pressure, and an evening party was given to him by the Talukdars of Oudh. He was also entertained at dinner by the Maharaja of Benares and by the members of his own service. His successor, Sir Auckland Colvin, held Durbars at Agra and Allahabad just before Christmas.

In the Punjab Sir Charles Aitchison was at the head of affairs for only three months last year; but he could not give much attention to his satrapy during that period, as he had to perform the onerous duties of President of the Public Service Commission. His successor, Mr. James Lyall, at the outset of his gubernatorial career, distinguished himself, like his brother Sir Alfred, by sitting in judgment upon the decision of the highest tribunal in the Province in a case in which a member of the Civil Service was concerned. Mr. Lyall not only exonerated Mr. Macauliffe, the Divisional Judge of Sialkot, against whom certain serious charges had been made by a pleader of the Chief Court and proved in the opinion of Mr. Justice Barney, who tried the case; but His Honor also made a sort of apology to the accused for having called upon him for an explanation of his conduct. The Punjab University examination scandals received a good deal of public attention during the past year. The disclosures made in connection with these led to the removal of Mr. Larpent from the Registrarship of the University and to the reorganization of the Registrar's office. The Government of India also appointed a Commission to enquire into his conduct.

In Madras the new Governor who was raised to the peerage under tittle of Lord Connemara at the beginning of the year, won golden opinions from all classes and sections of the community with whom he came into contact in the course of his tours. He applied himself in right earnest to the task of repairing the incalculable mischief which had been wrought by his predecessor. Lord Connemara reinstated most of the Native officials of Tanjore who had been dismissed on the report of Mr. Thomas of the Weld case and Ilbert Bill notoriety. The past year witnessed the termination of the scandals to which the unfortunate Crole case had given rise. Lord Cross reversed his predecessor's illogical decision in the case and ordered that Mr. Crole should receive back the pay of which he had unjustly been deprived. The Ross-Morgan adultery case which caused much excitement among the European community in the Southern Presidency, resulted in the acquital of the accused. Lord Connemara made an extensive tour in the southern parts of the Presidency, which produced highly beneficial effects. Last year the so-called benighted Presidency saw a new and interesting spectacle. Raja Sir T. Madava Rao was invited to deliver the annual address at the Convocation of the local University. The worthy Raja satisfactorily performed the important task entrusted to him, and his success made it clear that the noble example set by Madras in this respect ought to be imitated by the other Provinces.

In the Western Presidency Lord Reay continued to do good work during the past year, though his Lordship's popularity suffered to some extent by his weak defence of the Abkari policy of Government and by his action in declining to forward to the Secretary of State the memorial which had been presented to him by the European community of Bombay, protesting against the appointment of a Civilian to the post of Chief Presidency Magistrate. This Civilian Magistrate, however, gave great satisfaction to the public by strongly condemning from the bench the unwarrantable attack made upon him by Sir Frank Souter, the Commissioner of Police, for having dismissed a charge of torture preferred by the Police. The retirements of Sir William Wedderburn and Professor Wordsworth caused deep and universal regret among the Native community not only of the Western Presidency but throughout India. A sensational libel case arose out of the celebrated suit Dadaji vs. Rukmabai. The plaintiff's uncle brought a charge of defamation against the defendant Rukmabai, but it was dismissed. Another sensational case cropped up in the Western Presidency. Mr. Sham Rao Land, Dewan of Cambay, charged Mr. Wilson, the Political Agent, with having made an infamous proposal in regard to his (Mr. Sham Rao's) daughter. A Commission composed of two members of the Civil Service was appointed under Act 37 of 1850 to enquire into the charge. They found Mr. Wilson guilty, and the Bombay Government concurred in the verdict. But Lord Cross reversed the decision of the Bombay Government, but with curious inconsisteucy, his Lordship directed Mr. Wilson to retire from the service. There was a serious affray attended with loss of life between the soldiers of the 17th Bombay Infantry and the Police in the town of Bombay. The Viceroy visited Sind, and the visit was rendered memorable by the establishment of an Arts College and a Mahomedan Madrassa at Karachi.

In the minor Provinces nothing of any particular importance occurred during the past year. In the Central Provinces Mr. A. Mackenzie, the new Chief Commissioner, distinguished himself by echoing the insensate cry against high education, which is the fashion of the day. He, however, applied himself with great energy and vigour to the task of reforming administrative abuses. In Assam Mr. Ward's action in placing restraints upon the rights which the poorer classes of the people had from time immorial enjoyed of collecting certain articles of forest produce, and in reducing the number of junior scholarships, created much discontent, and his departure from the Province towards the close of the year was hailed as a relief. Mr. Crosthwaite, the new Chief Commissioner of Burmah, vigorously applied himself to the task of pacifying the Upper Proviuce in concert with the Military authorities.

GENERAL.

The National Association founded by Her Excellency the Countess of Dufferin for supplying female medical aid to the women of India, made considerable progress during the past year. The Jubilee collections amounted to about five lakhs of rupees and fully assured the stability of the fund. Lady Roberts, the wife of the Commander-in-Chief, set on foot a movement for establishing Homes in the Hills for Nursing sisters entertained in European Regimental Hospitals under the new system. His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught went home on short leave to take part in the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of his Royal Mother's reign, and his return to his post at the head of the Bombay Army on the expiry of his leave was hailed with delight. The Report of the second National Congress which had assembled in Calcutta under presidency of Mr. Dadabhoy Nowroji during the closing week of 1886 was published last year, and it was read with deep interest by the educated Natives throughout India and by their friends in England. The various political Associations were very active and did much useful work. The question of Hindu social reform which had cropped up in connection with the Rukmabai case received a good deal of public attention during the past year in many parts of the country, and it was zealously dis-

cussed from various points of view. The insane proceedings of the unfortunate and ill-used Dhuleep Sing, who, not being allowed to return to this country, found his way to Russia, caused deep regret among the Princes and people of India. The Military order directing that in future all ammunition is to be withdrawn from the men's pouches and kept under lock and key ready to be served at a moment's notice, was received with general rejoicing throughout the country. The practice of allowing soldiers to make free use of ammunition, without any restriction whatever, had been the cause of many rash murders in almost every part of India. The last week of the past year was rendered memorable by the assembling of the Third National Congress at Madras attended by about 800 delegates from the various parts of the Empire and presided over by the Hon'ble Budruddin Tyabji of Bombay.

CALCUTTA.

The Municipal affairs of the Metropolis occupied, as usual, a good deal of public attention during the past year, though they did not excite such bitter controversies as they had done in the time of Sir Rivers Thompson. Sir Steuart Bayley's selection of Mr. H. J. S. Cotton to act as Chairman of the Corporation during Sir Henry Harrison's absence on leave, gave great satisfaction to the rate-payers. Mr. Cotton justified the confidence placed in him and discharged his onerous duties with great ability and tact. The proposal made by the Health Society to revive the odious Contagious Diseases Act in the town was strongly and unanimously condemned by Native public opinion. The ceremony of laying the foundation-stone of the Eden Hostel was performed with great *eclat* by Sir Steuart Bayley, and Dr. Rajendralala Mitra, on behalf of the Hindu Hostel Committee, delivered an excellent address on the occasion. The controversy which the learned Doctor carried on with Messrs. Eliot and Pedler on the subject of the establishment of a teaching University in Calcutta, excited much interest among the educated public. The sound conclusions at which he arrived on this important question found ready acceptance among all intelligent and unprejudiced persons. The Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science did, as usual, much useful work during the past year; but the Ripon Professorship Fund made very slow progress. The Calcutta Medical Society revived the old idea of licensing the medical practitioners of the town and keeping a register thereof. The movement did not receive much public sympathy as its object evidently was to make over the medical profession entirely to the Diploma-holders of Anglo Indian and European Medical Schools.

OBITUARY.

It is now our painful duty to record the name, of the distinguished men who were gathered to their fathers during the past year, and the list is unhappily, a long one. England lost a brilliant diplomatist in Lord Lyons, an eminent musicians and composer in Sir George Macfarren, and one of her most distinguished statesmen in the Earl of Iddesleigh, better known as Sir Stafford Northcote, who, while at the head of the India Office in 1867 and 1868, had rendered valuable services to this country. The death of Lord Wolverton, better known as George Glyn, removed one of the most prominent and powerful of Mr. Gladstone's supporters, who, since he succeeded his father in 1873, had poured out money like water for the electioneering purposes of the Liberal party. Russia lost her newspaper Emperor in M. Katkoff, the Editor of the *Moscow Gazette*. No journalist in any age or country had exercised such enormous influence as M. Katkoff, and it is no exaggeration to say that in his time Russia was governed by his journal. Many distinguished Anglo-Indians in England were gathered to their fathers during the past twelvemonth, such as Major Evans Bell, Sir Ashley Eden, Sir Philip Wodehouse, Sir Barrow Ellis, Sir Charles Macgregor, Sir Robert Montgomery, the Rev. James Long and Mr. J. R. Bullen Smith. The death of Major Evans Bell was an irreparable loss to the Princes and people of India, and that of Sir Ashley Eden caused deep and wide-spread regret in Bengal. India lost four of her feudatory Chiefs last year—the Maharaja of Bikanir, the Raja of Jhind, the Nawab of Rampur and the Rajah of Tehri in Gurhwal. The death of the ex-King Wajid Ali removed one of the last remaining links between India under Native Government and the India of to-day. In Bengal the Native community had to mourn the loss of Mr. Herschell Dear, the well-known philanthropist of Monghyr, of Raja Rajendra Mullick, Babu Jagadish Nath Roy, Dr. Ram Das Sen, Babu Rungo Lal Banerjee, Pandit Thakur Das Churamani, Babu Girija Bhusun Mookerjee and Babu Rakhal Das Halder; in Northern India that of Haji Gholam Hossein and Sirdar Vikram Singh; in Madras that of Mr. Ramaengar; and in the Bombay Presidency that of Mr. Manikji Cursetji and the Hon'ble Dayaram Jeth Mull. The Native Church in Bengal lost two of her oldest and most respected ministers in the Rev. Hari Har Sanyal and the Rev. Jagadishwar Bhuttacharjee.

CONCLUSION.

The above is necessarily an imperfect retrospect of the past year. It was a year of suffering, sorrow and anxiety. May the new year under God's blessing prove more prosperous and happy!

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